THE WORST MONARCH OF ALL.

Nasr-Ed-Deen, Shah of Persia, and His Bad Manners.

The shah of Persia has invaded Europe, and it is no pshaw-ing matter to the monarchs who have him to entertain, for he completely fills the description of the human creature sometimes styled in America an "educated hog." Not so very well educated either, but thoroughly a hog. The monarchs and courtiers dread him, and well they may, for any place he occupies for a few days is unfit for civilized man's habitation till it has been thoroughly fumigated and the absorbing part of the furniture burned.

The surprising fact, to western people, about many Orientals is that they do not regard dirt and deformity. For the latter they actually have a sort of unnatural affection. Those monstrous distortions of humanity which are kept out of sight in Christian countries are made much of in Turkey and Persia. A man with one horrible eye in a puffed cheek, a man with all his foot mashed into one revolting and diseased toe, a twisted, distorted, most unhuman looking dwarf—these are in a sense heroes in Persia. They like to see animals slaughtered and skinned and dressed; the sight and smell of warm, flowing blood and offal is agreeable to them.

And Nasr-Ed-Deen is in all these respects the most Persian of Persians. On his first visit to Europe he had the sheep for his cookery slaughtered in the reception hall of the palaces in which he was lodged. And this was rather the least offensive of his domestic performances. In England some of the clergy and noble ladies tried to impress on him their ideas of the proper dignity of women; he could not even understand what they were talking about. When the Princess of Wales was presented in court dress, he laid his hand on her bare shoulder and said she was fit for her place. What further liberties he might have taken had not the princess retired can only be conjectured. At Berlin he asked Emperor William why he did not "cut off that ugly old woman's head and get a young princess to be the mistress of the harem."

Nasr-Ed-Deen was born in 1830, and ascended the throne in 1848, occupying by a strange train of circumstances a position somewhat similar to that held by James I in English history—that is, all the old royal lines are supposed to unite in him by descent. But this is not proved, and the recent claim that he is also a descendant of Cyrus and Darius has nothing to support it. The general statement about the filthiness of Orientals does not apply of course, to the various princes and nobles of India, Siam and eastern Asia generally who have visited western Europe; they have generally displayed both elegance and refinement, while the branch of the Turanians which overran Persia and Asia Minor appear destitute of both and humanity as well. The late princes of Persia are of the Mongol stock; and the Persian branch of it has shown all the bravery of the race but few of the redeeming qualities of the Mongols in China and India.

Nasr-Ed-Deen has waged three terrible wars, two with Russia and one with England; in the first two he lost a third of his territory, and the latter ended in 1857 by his granting all that England asked. In 1873 he made the grand tour of Europe, leaving behind him a trail of stench and vermin. It cost $150,000 to put Buckingham palace in repair after he left it. His sleeping room had to be drenched with disinfectants before the workmen would consent to work in it; all the furniture and hangings were burned and the plaster scraped from the walls. At Paris he did better, but jewelers and artists levied on his baggage and the government had to pay them for articles he had bought. At Vienna Emperor William got sick after the first interview, and thereafter the courtiers kept the shah "soaked" with champagne, and therefore comparatively decent.

And now the poor monarchs of Europe had to stand a repetition of this thing because Nasr-Ed-Deen is their royal brother, and monarchical etiquette demands it. How thankful we should feel, as the Sunday school books say, that we live in a free country and can kick a shah outdoors if he don't behave himself.

Mr. Bright's Speeches.

Above twenty years ago I was talking with Mr. Bright, in the smoking room of the house of commons. He was going to speak later on in the evening, and he had a long roll of notes which he was looking through. "I never learned a speech but once," he said, "and then I did not remember it. But I consider that no one ought to address the house on an important issue without thoroughly getting the subject into his head, and knowing how he intends to treat it." "You write down some passages," I said, pointing to the notes. "Yes," he replied, "I do, otherwise I might say more than I intended." And then he went on to explain that his greatest difficulty in mastering the art of which he had become such a master had been to acquire the habit of speaking slowly. "You should not make pauses between words and sentences," he went on to say, "but pronounce distinctly every syllable."

The natives of the Chiloe Islands make use of a curious natural barometer, to which, from its having been first noticed by the captain of an Italian corvette, the name "Barometre Araucano" has been given. This novel weather guide is the shell of a crab, one of the Anomura, probably one of the genus Lithodes. It is peculiarly sensitive to atmospheric changes. It has a color nearly white in dry weather, but as soon as wet weather approaches small red spots are exhibited, varying in number and intensity with the amount of moisture in the atmosphere. In the rainy season it is completely red.

To obviate "kinks" in submarine telegraph cables, and consequently render these important means of communication less liable to break when subjected to a strain, Messrs. Trott and Hamilton have adopted the expedient of making each alternate layer of sheathing across each other. Thus if the inner sheathing of hemp has a right-hand "lay," care is taken that the lay of the next sheathing shall be left-handed.

A POINTER FOR JERSEY.—An observing soil tiller in Michigan attributes the unusually large crop of mosquitoes there to the absence of swallows. He says: The wet, cold weather of the early spring starved these birds, so that where there were thousands last year there are none now. With the swallows the mosquito is a favorite lunch.

At a recent test of search lights for the purpose of discovering an approaching enemy dressed in uniforms of various colors, it was found that the red uniforms were very distinct, blue being the least conspicuous.

Dr. Keller says that if silk tissues are impregnated with chromate of copper and then exposed to the direct sunshine, various shades of brown may be obtained, and the fabric is rendered waterproof.

Truth is like a torch; when shaken it shines.

SCIENTIFIC.

Two new colors are described in various recent technical journals. The first is apparently a reproduction of a color known to the ancients, and made by them with sand and lime heated with roasted copper. The pigment, on analysis, appears a compound of silicate of lime and copper. It is now made with exact proportions of the materials, so that the product is uniform, and the process seems likely to furnish us with a material of great value. The color is a bright greenish blue, so that it will be more available for decoration than French blue or cobalt blue, both of which are of a purplish cast and do not mix well with other colors, while it appears to be as permanent as either of them.

The other color is black, which has been made by treating camphor with sulphuric acid. By steeping camphor in strong sulphuric acid a jelly-like mass is formed of a reddish color, when this is heated it boils, giving off fumes of sulphuric acid, and turns intensely black. By evaporation the unconverted excess of acid and camphor is driven off and a black mass remains which seems to have the qualities of India ink. Like India ink, it can be apparently dissolved in water, and remains suspended for a long time. We hope that some one will pursue the subject of this camphor-black. A pure black liquid is one of the things that science has searched for in vain for many years, and even so near an approach to it as good India ink would be a useful substance.

According to *Nature* the Russian Academy of Sciences offers a prize of $2500 for the best inquiry into the nature and effects of the poison which develops in cured fish. The objects of the competitors must be: "(1). To determine, by means of exact experiments, the physical and chemical nature of the poison which develops in fish; (2) to study, by experiments on animals, its action upon the heart, the circulation of the blood, the organs of digestion and the nervous system; (3) to determine the rapidity of its absorption by the digestive organs, and (4) to study and describe the characteristics which may serve to distinguish contaminated fish from such as are not contaminated." The fifth and sixth questions relate to the means of preserving fish from the development of the poison and to the question of counter-poisons and the medical treatment of poisoned persons. The competition is open to all. The memoirs must be sent in, either in manuscript or printed, before January 1, 1893, and may be written in any one of the following languages: Russian, Latin, French, English, German.

In view of the threatened ice famine the following recipe for home-made ice given by the *Colliery Engineer* may be found of use: Take a cylindrical vessel and pour three and one-third ounces of commercial sulphuric acid and one and three-quarter ounces of water into it, and then add one ounce of powdered sulphate of soda. In the center of this mixture place in a smaller vessel containing the water to be frozen; then cover the vessel, and, if possible, revolve the whole with a gentle motion. In a few minutes the water in the small vessel will be converted into ice. The same mixture can be used a second or a third time for making a block of ice. The operation should, if possible, be performed in a cool place—in a cellar, for example.

What is the vital spark which animates organic life? The origin of vitality is as truly one of Nature's dark secrets, utterly hidden from the eye of the scientific man of to-day, as from the perceptions of the earnest inquiries of 4000 years ago. There is more known of the method of its manifestations and growth than they knew, but whether a correlative or a substantive of heat, or immeasuration, there is one thing pretty well ascertained, and that is that there is a fixed quantity apportioned to things and to mankind, and that vitality is an individual allotment, a separate characteristic, so to speak, bestowed upon each individual member of the organic creation, no two things of the same variety and genus receiving the same quantity.

According to Professor Sargent, an authority on all matters pertaining to forestry, the strongest wood in the United States is that of the nutmeg hickory of the Arkansas region, and the weakest is West Indian birch. The most elastic is the tamarack, the white or shellbark hickory standing far below it. The least elastic and the lowest in specific gravity is the wood of the Ficusaurea. The highest specific gravity upon which in general depends value as fuel, is attained by the bluewood of Texas.

Among the many startling contrasts between the industries of one hundred years ago and those of to-day one of the most impressive is the vast expansion of the production of that indispensable article, iron. A century ago, it is stated, only charcoal iron was produced, and of that only 30,000 tons a year. Even Great Britain produced in 1778 only 68,300 tons. To-day there are several furnaces in this country each of which turns out annually as much as that, and a single railroad now buys yearly more iron than both Great Britain and this country produced a century ago.

Bluing is added to the water in which linen is washed, to neutralize the dull yellow tint which clean linen alwas possesses. Blue and yellow are complimentary colors, that is, when mixed together they make white, so that the peculiar shade of yellow which is common to all intensely white bodies, and which may be partially, at least, an optical illusion, is neutralized by the blue. Paper, sugar, starch and many other substances are treated in the same way.

The Meteorological society of England sent out invitations to photographers about two years ago requesting photographs of lightning flashes. About 100 have been received in reply, showing some remarkable specimens of knotted, ribbon and flashes which appear like a lace curtain. The now noted dark flash is also shown, which is supposed to be caused by the smoke and dust floating in the air burned by the lightning.

A RECOMMENDATION.—Employer—"Are you watchful and prudent in looking after business interests?"

Applicant for position—"I've carried the same umbrella over two years without losing it or having it stolen."

"Then you may have entire control of my extensive business and name your own salary."

GOOD COFFEE.—How many housekeepers know that coffee mixed with the juices that come from broiled steak makes the nicest of gravy? It assimilates nicely with any seasoning you may use. The better the coffee, the better the gravy will be. Use it hot, strong and clear, and, of course, unsweetened.

When you make tea, put in the pot a little piece of cinnamon bark, and cheap grades of tea will taste as good as the high-priced.

When coffee is made, cleared, and poured into the cups, add to each cup two drops of extract of vanilla. It will improve it wonderfully, unless the coffee is overboiled or weak.

A GOOD mulch is a layer of fine soil, such as frequent, shallow cultivation provides.

BETTER one bird than a thousand larvæ.

HUMOROUS.

A CAUTIOUS MAN.—A man who had been hurt by a fall out Fort street the other day had an ambulance summoned but by the time it arrived he had regained much of his nerve and, before he would permit them to lift him in, he inquired:

"What will the charge be?"

"Nothing," he was assured.

"What! Is it free?"

"It is."

"Well, that's fair enough, but look here, don't fool with me! If you expect to make me buy a dollar's worth of church fair tickets at the other end of the route you'll get badly left."

A WISE MAN.—Mrs. Harpy—"How did you manage to acquire such a fortune from that little pamphlet, 'How to Make Dynamite?'"

Mr. Sharpy—"I used to offer the book, then pull out a foot section of two-inch gas pipe, loaded with paper and a piece of rope in one end for a fuse, and tell them it was how a bomb looked when finished. Every body thought it was genuine and subscribed to get rid of me."

OF COURSE THEY DID.—A small boy was eyeing and making use of some very emphatic expressions and exclamations on the street the other day when a gentleman halted and observed: "Tut! tut! my boy! Such words as that won't help your case any."

In backing up he struck the same loose plank which had tripped the boy up, and he fell at full length and rolled off the curb stone. He gave proper vent to his feelings as he lay there, and as he struggled up the boy exclaimed:

"What do you say now? Didn't they help you a heap?"

DRAWING.—Two strangers were talking on the cars, and one was a portrait painter. After some time the other inquired of the painter's business.

"I am an artist," he replied, modestly.

"Ah," said the other, "what do you draw?"

"Faces."

"And I am an artist," continued the other.

"Ah," exclaimed the painter, with a smile of interest, "and pray, may I ask what you draw?"

"Teeth," said the other. "I am a dentist."

Then the artist got up and left the seat.

CUSTOMER, returning—"Didn't I give you a $5 gold piece just now for a 5-cent piece?"

Merchant, positively—"No, sir."

Customer, turning to go—"It isn't of any particular consequence. I had a counterfeit $5 gold piece that I carried simply as a curiosity. I must have lost it some——"

Merchant, hastily—"Wait a moment. I'll look again."

A QUESTIONABLE SUCCESS.—Angelina—"And now that you have visited her school, Edwin, what is your decision regarding Mme. Francaise for our children? As to discipline, does she give that proper attention?"

Edwin—"Indeed she does, my dear. I was there the whole morning, and Madame seemed to devote the entire time to preserving order."

WHEN an old lady read that "Minister Reid pays $2,500 a year more than his salary for house rent in Paris," she said she didn't see how he was going to keep out of debt, unless he got a marriage fee every day, and his church gave him half a dozen donation parties a year.

A LADY says that the mortality among the Masons must be very great this year, for every time she asks for recreation her husband finds he is "obliged to attend a brother's funeral."

A LITTLE TRUMP.—A very bright 3 year old girl in a Cambridge kindergarten was selected to "show off" the merits of the school, even for mere babes, to a party of visitors, and was asked to count. She reflected credit on her home by doing it as follows:

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king!"

STOUT LADY—"Sir, I beg that you will desist from following me, or I shall call a constable."

Perspiring Stranger—"Pray, don't say so. It's the only bit of shade in the whole park. I'd do as much for you, but my shadow isn't worth mentioning.

MR. WICKWIRE—"Well, my dear, how is the new girl getting along? Does she seem to be any more economical than the other one?"

Mrs. Wickwire—"Just about the same. She doesn't seem to economize on anything except the broom."

MOTHER—"Now, girls, as you have finished your daily quarrel, suppose you go and eat some dinner."

Arabella, sarcastically—"Oh, I suppose you want us to swallow our feud."

NOT QUITE RIGHT.—Clerk—There, sir, I call that a pretty good fitting pair of trousers."

Farmer Stubblefield, from Wayback Junction—"They feel all right in the seat, bub; but, seems to me, they don't fit very snug under the arms."

POPPING THE QUESTION.—"Sarah, I want to ask you a question. Will you be a sister-in-law to me?"

Sarah—"Why, certainly, Mr. Wigsby."

"Well, then please go into the parlor and tell Maria."

PATIENT—"Well, doctor, what do you think about the swelling on the back of my neck?"

Doctor—"I don't like the looks of it, as it is in a very dangerous place, so my advice to you is to keep your eye on it."

A VIVACIOUS DAMSEL.—The Minister—"Your daughter has a very buoyant disposition, Mrs. Fangle."

Mrs. Fangle—"Yes, elder; I'm most afeerd she's a leetle too fond of the boys."

Photography in Science.—We have said that photography owes more to chemistry and chemists than to the optician. Fairly good pictures can be taken without a lens, through a mere pin hole in the shutter of a dark room. Such pictures, however, require an exposure of from half an hour to an hour, whereas with a lens the time of exposure need not be longer than a second for the same object. Cheap lenses not costing more than three or four dollars, can be made to give surprisingly good pictures when managed properly. The optician, however, has it in his power to greatly enhance the perfection of the photographer's work, especially in portraiture, in instaneous photography, and in astronomical work. One can think of glass as a plastic material which the optical sculptor molds and forms so that the rays of light in passing through the surfaces shall not form distorted images of objects on the sensitive plate. The want of perfection of the optical surfaces is not so apparent in landscape photography as in the photography of the stars. In astronomy the objects which are photographed are comparatively simple, and any distortion of figure is readily recognized. In this science, therefore, the highest degree of skill is required of the optician.

The Economy of Ammonia.

The universal use of ammonia in some form in the laundry and housework, as well as for the toilet and bath, makes it desirable to have some definite and accurate information in regard to the nature and history of ammonia.

Ammonia in the form of sal ammoniac is one of the earliest known chemical substances. The name comes from the province of Ammon, in Egypt, where sal ammoniac has been known for 2,000 years, being produced by the decomposition of camel's dung.

Aqua ammonia or the liquid ammonia now used in the household was discovered in the 13th century, but its nature was not understood till 1785, when Berthellot first discovered the true composition of ammonia gas, the basis of all ammonical preparations.

Until quite recently the only source of ammonia was from the decomposition of animal substances which made it comparatively scarce and expensive. One of its sources was the distillation of horn, from which the name hartshorn was derived.

When it was found that ammonia was produced in large quantity in the manufacture of ordinary coal gas, with the increased production the cost was so much cheapened that it became possible to use it for many new purposes.

The first ammonia ever bottled for general family use was the now celebrated C. C. Parsons' Household Ammonia. It took a long time to persuade ladies who were used to buying a small bottle of ammonia at a high price and keeping it on their toilet table, that in Household Ammonia they had an improved and economical rival for the soaps and sodas they were familiar with.

But time, a fortune spent in advertising, and its own merits, have done their work, and the mail now brings orders from every State and Territory in the Union and from many foreign countries.

When bottled ammonia was first introduced to the public objection was found with its destructive action on the skin and clothes, for ammonia of full strength is similar in its action to caustic soda or potash: to overcome this difficulty Household Ammonia was invented and patented, and its superiority over all other imitations has been the foundation of an enormous business.

As it is patented, none of the ammonias that imitate its appearance can possess its chemical qualities; these imitations are really frauds, and are no more like the genuine Household Ammonia than a sateen is like the rich silk, whose appearance it imitates.

Here should be spoken a word of caution; the volatile gaseous nature of ammonia makes it very easy to adulterate. Dilute good ammonia with several times its bulk of water and it will still have a smell of ammonia. The only safe way is to always buy goods made by a reliable house of long standing. Ammonia is even sold bottled with cork, when, if it had any strength at all, it would destroy a cork in a few days.

Inventors have been attempting for years to make an ammonia soap, but the gaseous nature of the ammonia always was found an insuperable obstacle, no matter how carefully the ammonia was put in or how tightly packed it would escape in a short time, and you would have only an ordinary soap left behind.

With better fortune the inventor of Household Ammonia, after a series of experiments running up into the hundreds and continued for years, succeeded in preparing ammonia so that it could be permanently combined with soap and never lose its strength.

In an age less familiar with chemical wonders Zomonia would have suggested magic as its only possible explanation.

To the apparent evidence of all the senses Zomonia is only a very nice soap powder delicately scented, but put a little in the palm of your hand, moisten it and rub gently, and presto you have the strongest ammonia. In the same way, when put into water in the wash tub or for cleansing purposes, Zomonia dissolves, and in solution you have the precise mixture of soap and ammonia that experience has shown has the greatest efficiency.

While Zomonia is kept away from water it will never lose its ammonia, although it may be exposed to the air without danger of loss or waste.

It is impossible to imagine any further steps or improvements in cleansing compounds. A perfectly made neutral soap was for years the ideal of all good housekeepers.

The introduction of Household Ammonia, the strongest, purest ammonia bottled, and sold at a price that brought it within everyone's reach, was an immense addition to the ease and comfort of housekeeping.

Now, when a perfect neutral soap is combined with full strength ammonia, in the proper proportion, to give the highest efficiency, the ammonia never loosing its strength and yet always ready for use, housekeepers have a perfect, complete ammonia soap for every domestic use.

Before closing about ammonia it may be well to call attention to one immense advantage that ammonia has over the soda generally used in soaps or soap powders.

The volatile nature of ammonia makes it the safest of all cleansers. When soda is not very thoroughly rinsed out of the clothes it stays in them, rotting them, and turning them yellow.

As soon as clothes washed with ammonia are hung in the air the ammonia goes right off and cannot injure them.

Sensation of Color.—Professor S. P. Langley, it is said, has recently succeeded in measuring the amount of energy which is used in impressing upon the retina the sensation of certain kinds of light. His results give a good idea of the minute measurements which physicists can make. The standard or unit of measurement in these minute matters is the amount of work done in raising a gramme, which is about fifteen and one-half grains, to a height of one centimetre, or less than two-fifths of an inch. Insignificant as this seems to be, Professor Langley estimates that the same expenditure of energy would suffice to give us the sensation of crimson 1,000 times and the sensation of green light 100,000,000 times.

It is curious to note that the sensation of red is 100,000 times as difficult to produce as that of its complementary color, green. Here is at once a most beautiful explanation of the reason why green gives the eye repose and red disturbs it. Red strikes the sensitive nerve with all this additional force. Amateur photographers well know how fatiguing it is to work many hours in a deep red light, and they may see from these measurements that it is really the most wearying to the optic nerve. Moreover, when we reflect that the commonest form of color blindness is an inability to see red, we are impelled to ask whether this may not also have some connection with the comparatively large amount of energy needed to impress the sensation on an ordinary eye. The sensation of red is the most difficult for nature to produce, and many eyes are not sufficiently sensitive for it ever to be produced at all.

Since warm, dry air is carried into the cyclone from the anti-cyclone, the clouds formed at the edge of the cyclone are subsequently absorbed; thus the clouds are more dense in the center where the pressure is a minimum, and are progressively less dense toward the periphery.

FILLING FOR LEMON PIE.—One egg, juice and rind of one lemon, one cup of boiling water, one cup of sugar, one teaspoon of butter, one tablespoon of cornstarch. Boil all together for a few minutes before pouring it into the crust.

FARM NOTES.

LAWNS AND LAWN-MOWERS.—A large proportion of the lawns in city, village and country are deteriorating, and close examination shows the turf to be thin, the desirable grasses weak, browning quickly under drought and hot sun, while coarse, unsightly plants creep in and retain a foothold. The beauty of the lawn diminishes with age in spite of liberal fertilizing and close and regular cutting. What is the reason? Mainly, it is the excessive use of the modern lawn-mower. In nearly every locality may be found pasture lands low set with grasses fine and rich holding color well under mid-summer sun and drought, with a thick, elastic turf, through which no color of soil can be seen—the very perfection of a lawn if it were trimmed close and even. Why does the pasture flourish through a score of years and the lawn decay? Simply because the pasture is kept nearly under natural conditions, and the lawn is subjected to an intense Chinese dwarfing system. Suppose the lawn is newly made, according to the best instructions, the soil deeply dug, enriched and made clean and fine, the seed sown and the grass plants show thick and strong. What next? The lawn-mower—twice or three times a week until growth stops in autumn. Next spring the grass makes a renewed struggle for existence, starts early and strong again. It lifts its blades to the sun and air that it may push its roots into the rich soil for moisture and sustenance. The effort is promptly met by the lawn-mower. Growth is checked above and under ground; so through an entire season and succeeding years. The law is that the root growth of the plant is in proportion to its top growth; the root growth is shallow. Of what avail is the deep, rich soil? It is a wonder that the lawn browns early, and that coarse, hardy plants get a foothold?

Give the grass plant a chance to make adequate root growth if you would have and keep a good lawn. Read the lesson of the pasture lands. Encourage it a little, in early spring, and in the autumn lay the lawn-mower away early, and let a thick, strong growth of grass be the winter protection of the lawn.

FRUIT—DANGERS AND REMEDIES.—An excessive amount of fruit, or, if eaten either in the unripe or over-ripe state, produces various disturbances in the system, chiefly so because of its tendency to ferment and decompose within the digestive tract, and to produce stomach and bowel disorders. If these disturbances are not too great, or too prolonged, they need occasion no special anxiety. A dose of castor oil, to which a few drops of laudanum have been added is usually sufficient to clean out the irritating "debris," and in a day or two the natural equilibrium is restored. If there is much griping and pain with the movements, and these become too numerous to be comfortable, the dose of oil soould be followed by curtailing activity—by quiet and repose—by a diet of meat broths, containing rice, barley, or sago; by rice and milk, milk toast, etc.

WATER CRESS.—The water cress is a weed, pure and simple. It can never be anything else. Efforts to cultivate it and produce a better and more delicate species have been made, and signally failed. Under artificial treatment it loses the faint, piquant, mustard flavor that is its especial charm, and assumes much of the hot, pungent taste of the horseradish. It flourishes for nearly nine months in the year, and, as it is constantly renewing itself, the large, coarse leaves of the old plants may be left to wither; and only the young delicate stems picked. It will not bear cooking of any kind, but eaten raw with a little salt, and fresh bread and butter, it is—well, try it.

THE BEST FERTILIZER.—A Southern paper avers that wood ashes contain all the mineral elements of wood in an available form. Ground raw bone supplements this with nitrogenous matter and a needed excess of phosphoric acid. For trees ten inches or more in diameter, a barrel of ashes and fifty pounds of bone spread evenly around the tree over a circle thirty feet in diameter and dug in will astonish most people by the effect it will produce.

A QUICK MANURE.—Dr. T. H. Hawkins thus advises his gardening friends: If your strawberry beds or your flower beds seem to be languishing, and especially if the leafage is small and pale, a little saltpetre, say a pound to a square rod, if applied just before rain, will astonish you by its effect in stimulating the growth and enriching the color. It should be scattered as evenly as possible on the soil, not on the plants. If rain is not expected at once, a liberal watering will develop its action.

THE roads are in bad condition for this season, and the difficulty of using them should impress upon farmers the importance of selecting only the most capable citizens as road overseers. The road tax is one that returns fourfold to the farmer, if rightly applied, which would be the case if the farmers themselves would take more interest in the matter. This is the season for hauling gravel on the roads and ditches should be dug along the sides for carrying off the water. A well-graveled road should be serviceable the entire year and show no effects of use except when the frost is leaving the ground.

CLOVER can be sown in the fall. The seed is put in about the middle of August or September. To prepare the land plow it now and let the seeds of weeds sprout. Just before seeding plow the land again, and dress it with a mixture of thirty bushels of lime and wood ashes harrow well, sow the seed, and brush the land over, so as to lightly cover the seed. It will make a better "catch" than when clover is seeded on grain in the spring.

DURING seasons when rains are frequent the effect of tile drainage is made very manifest by comparison with undrained fields. It requires but a short time for a tile-drained field to rid itself of the surplus water and become warm. Tile drainage has in all cases proved of incalculable benefit to lands that are liable to continued dampness from an excess of moisture.

HOW TO TRAP HAWKS.—According to a New England authority the best way to trap hawks that be ever heard of is to set up a post ten feet high near the poultry yard with a perch on it. On this perch set a common steel trap baited with a chicken's head or a dead chicken. The hawks like to perch on some such point of observation before taking their final swoop down among the chicks, and are very apt to get caught in such an arrangement.

In a report from the British consul at Tientsin, we notice that the North China railway, which was completed last summer, is now open for traffic. He says it is eighty-five miles long and costs on an average about $22,000 per mile. One engine came from the United States; the others are English built, on the American plan. The American engine cost 20 per cent. more than the others, but stands at the head of actual performance, it being admitted that the details of the working parts are better than the English.

Hope against hope, ask till you receive.

HOUSEHOLD

CREAMED BLACKBERRIES.—Select large ripe blackberries and have them perfectly dry. Put one pound of granulated sugar and a gill of water in a saucepan over the fire to boil; stir until the sugar is dissolved—not one moment longer. Boil continuously until the syrup thickens when dropped into ice water and will form a soft ball when rubbed between the thumb and finger. Watch the syrup carefully while boiling, and with the sponge wipe the sides of the saucepan three or four times. This prevents granulation. As soon as you can form this syrup into a soft ball turn it out onto a large greased meat platter, allow it to stand a few moments to cool, then stir with a wooden spoon rapidly until you have a white creamy candy called fondant. Now, place this fondant in a porcelain-lined saucepan, add your flavoring, stand the saucepan in a pan of boiling water and stir the fondant constantly until it melts. If it is too thick add water or flavoring to thin. Dip the berries in the hot fondant and stand aside to dry. A delicious dessert.

PRESERVED PEACHES. — Twelve pounds ripe peaches, six pounds sugar, one pint vinegar. Make a syrup of the sugar, vinegar and a little water. When this comes to a boil, drop in a few at a time and cook until they are so soft that a broom splinter will easily pierce to the stone. Do not think that this is a recipe for pickled peaches; the vinegar will not be noticed except in the increased richness of the preserves.

CANNING SWEET CORN.—One quart of water to three quarts of corn. Let the corn come to a boil. Add one teaspoonful of tartaric acid to each quart of corn. Boil fifteen minutes. When wanted for use, add one teaspoonful of soda to each quart of corn; let it stand one hour before cooking.

HINTS ABOUT SQUASHES.—The crook-necked squashes are not as watery as the round ones. Select those that are tender. If they are not too old you can cut through the skin with your nail. Wash them and cut in slices about a half inch thick, and lay them on a cloth in a steamer. When they are tender turn them out into a hot dish and mash them, adding salt and butter to taste. If the skins and seeds are not tender enough to eat, rub the squash through a colander.

BLACK RASPBERRY DESSERT.—Look over and put into the sauce dish the best sweet raspberries, crushing them as little as possible; then mash and strain half as many ripe, red currants, add sugar to the juice of these till it is quite sweet, and when it is well dissolved pour it over the "blackcaps," and let them stand an hour or so. Serve for after dinner dessert or for sauce whenever needed.

WHITE BEAN SOUP.—Steep the white beans over night in cold water, drain, and put into cold water and boil until you can rub them as a paste through a sieve, add a little milk and hot water, some shreds of onion, return to soup pot. Season to taste and flavor with parsley or dried thyme.

RED RASPBERRY AND CURRANT JELLY.—Take equal parts of currant and raspberry juice; boil and skim; then add sugar in the proportion of one pound of sugar to one pint of juice. Boil from five to fifteen minutes.

CUCUMBER CATSUP.—Grate large cucumbers before they begin to turn yellow; drain out the juice and put the pulp through a sieve to remove the large seeds; fill a bottle half full of the pulp, discarding the juice, and add the same quantity of ten per cent. vinegar; cork tightly. When used add pepper and salt; salt kills the vinegar if put in when made.

CREAMED SALT FISH.—Pick into pieces enough salt fish to make one cup, cover with cold water and let it come to the boiling point; simmer ten minutes, then drain; make one cup white sauce, with one tablespoonful of melted butter; add one tablespoonful of flour and pour on slowly one cupful of hot milk, season with salt and pepper and add one beaten egg.

WHITE CAKE.—One cup heaping full of sugar, piece of butter size of an egg, rub to a cream, two-thirds cup of sweet milk, two cups sifted flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth and add last.

TO COOK HOMINY.—Wash and soak the hominy over night. In the morning add plenty of water, and cook slowly for about two hours; stir often and allow it to boil down thick; pack in a stone jar, and set in a cold place. When wanted take out the desired amount, add milk, salt, sugar and a large lump of butter; heat thoroughly, and it is ready to serve.

COLD SLAW.—Shave off a hard white head of cabbage and season with the following dressing: One cup of cream, one and a half teaspoons of mustard, one teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of butter, one tablespoon of sugar and yolk of one egg beaten light. When boiled, add one cup of strong vinegar, stir well and pour over the cabbage.

CURRANT JELLY.—Boil the currants twenty minutes. Strain the juice and measure one pound of sugar to one pint of juice; boil the juice two minutes, then add the sugar and boil the whole together one minute. This is very nice.

SWEET PUDDING.—One cup of suet chopped fine, two cups of flour, two eggs, one cup of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of baking powder, one-fourth of a teaspoonful of salt, pour into pudding bag and boil one and one-half hours.

PARSNIP CAKES.—Two cupfuls of grated raw parsnips, same quantity of bread crumbs, one cup of milk, two eggs, three tablespoonfuls of flour, salt and pepper to taste. Fry in butter or lard.

HICKORYNUT CAKE.—One and one-half cups of sugar, one-half cup of butter, two eggs, one cup of sweet milk, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one cup of hickory nut meats, chopped fine; nearly three cups of flour.

COOKIES.—One and one-fourth cups of sugar, one-half cup of butter, one egg, one-half teaspoonful of soda; mix all together; roll out, cut into shape and bake.

MASHED POTATOES.—Boil one-half dozen potatoes until well done, then mash, with a tablespoonful of butter, a little salt, pepper and three tablespoonfuls of milk.

Forced to Leave Home.

Over 80 people were forced to leave their homes yesterday to call for a *free* trial package of Lane's Family Medicine. If your blood is bad, your liver and kidneys out of order, if you are constipated and have headache and an unsightly complexion, don't fail to call on any druggist to-day for a *free* sample of this grand remedy. The ladies praise it. Everyone likes it. Large-size package 50 cents.

WAGONS and carts that are used daily should have the axles well greased at least three times a week. It lessens the work of the horses.

HUMOROUS.

"KING MILAN is fearfully short of money and utterly without credit." When Brokeley read this he had both hands into his pockets up to the wrists and exclaimed, melodramatically: "Now I know what it is to feel like a king!"

ELLA—"Where will you pass the summer? Are you going into the country?"

Bella—"I don't know, I'm sure. Papa said something about going into insolvency, and if he says so, I suppose we shall have to go there."

HIS WEAK PLACE.—Beggar—Please help a poor cripple."

Passer-by, giving him money—"Poor fellow! where are you crippled?"

Beggar, pocketing the money—"In my finances, sir."

AN EXPLANATION. — Distracted Mother, at her daughter's wedding—"Oh! oh! oh! What shall we do? The groom hasn't come, the guests are beginning to giggle and my daughter is in a faint."

Friend of the family—"Calm yourself, madam. I saw the groom only two hours ago entering the great dry goods emporium at the corner. He said he had forgotten to get gloves."

Mother, suddenly breaking into smiles—"Oh, then it is all right. He's probably waiting for his change."

GAINING.—"You husband looks like a man of great self-control," remarked Mrs. Gadd to Mrs. Gabb.

"Well, he hadn't much when I married him," replied Mrs. Gabb, "but," she added, with a cold-steel look in her gray eye, "he's getting it."

HOPE STILL.—Anxious father—"I don't see what is to become of my son. He seems to be a born blunderer."

Old friend—"Um—there is no reason why he should not succeed as well as the rest as a weather prophet."

DECEPTIVE.—Wife, sitting in the sand—"How grandly beautiful the ocean is this morning, John. I never saw such magnificent waves."

Husband, coming out of the water and sputtering somewhat—"Y-ya-as, it l-l-looks a good deal better than it t-t-tastes."

THE FUTURE.—Husband, 100 years hence, when women rule—"My dear, I expect to go to town to-day. If you can spare me a little cash——"

Wife, from bed—"Certainly, darling. You will find some loose change in my pocket."

LEARNED MEN.—Fenderson—Ha! what's this? "The posterior third of the inferior convolution of the left frontal lobe is diseased in aphasia." Now, this is really startling. I'll tell that to Mr. Stickle; he's always interested in such matters. Oh, here he is now! I say, Stickle, were you aware that the posterior convolution of the aphasia is diseased in the left third of the inferior lobe?

And then Stickle knew just as much about it as Fenderson did; but it was an interesting matter, and both gentlemen stuck their hands in their pockets and felt that it would be a terrible set back to the earth should they be taken out of it.

TURN ABOUT.—A.—"So he kicked you, did he?"

B.—"Yes, he did that very thing."

"And you didn't kick him back?"

"No, indeed. If I had then it would have been his turn again."

More and finer fruit can be secured by heavy mulching than by cultivation. Deep cultivation near the roots of small fruits is worse than neglect.

Our Girls.

Kitty is witty,
Nettie is pretty,
Lutie is cute and small;
Irene is a queen,
Annette is a pet,
Nell is the belle of the ball;
Diantha is wealthy,
Bertha is healthy,
And health is the best of all.

Perfect health keeps her rosy and radiant, beautiful and blooming, sensible and sweet. It is secured by wholesome habits and the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Bertha takes it, and she also "takes the cake." The only *guaranteed* cure for those distressing ailments peculiar to women. Satisfaction or your money returned.

For Constipation or Sick Headache, use Dr. Pierce's Pellets; Purely Vegetable. One a dose.

An habitually sad face seldom gets into much credit.

What in the world is the use of sitting around waiting for something to turn up. You might just as well sit down in the meadow and wait for the cow to come up to be milked. Get up and shake yourself and make up your mind to turn up something. If you have nothing definite in your mind, then write to B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., and they will tell you a thing or two that will make you jump for joy.

It never troubles the wolf how many the sheep be.

The record of cures accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla can never be completely written. The peculiar curative powers of Hood's Sarsaparilla are successful when everything else has failed. If your blood is impure, your digestion out of order, try Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Be at ease yourself and your guests will be at ease.

Rupture cure guaranteed by Dr. J. B. Mayer, 831 Arch St., Phil'a, Pa. Ease at once, no operation or delay from business, attested by thousands of cures after others fail, advice free, send for circular.

A brave heart redeems an awkward carriage.

Nothing Cures Dropsy, Gravel, Bright's, Heart, Diabetes, Urinary, Liver Diseases, Nervousness, &c., like Cann's Kidney Cure. Office, 831 Arch St., Phila. $1 a bottle, 6 for $5. At Druggists. Curable worst cases. Cure guaranteed. Try it.

Bad manners are a species of bad morals.

Frazer Axle Grease.

One trial will convince you that it is the best. Ask your dealer for the Frazer Axle Grease, and take no other. Every box has our trade mark on.

A bad cook should serve as atonement for any amount of wickedness.

Five cents saved on soap; five dollars lost on rotted clothes. *Is that economy?* There is not 5 cents difference between the cost of a bar of the poorest soap made and the *best*, which is as all know, Dobbins' Electric.

The population of Germany, according to the last census, is 46,855,704.

FITS: All Fits stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restor